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6 October 1976

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MEMORANDUM FOR: DDCI

SUBJECT: Procedures for Clearing Executive Session Testimony

1. There are no formally established procedures for declassifying testimony given in executive session, because such declassification is hardly ever requested. The exception to this general rule is the Joint Economic Committee. (Humphrey is Chairman of the Committee; Proxmire is Chairman of the Subcommittee on Priorities and Economy in Government. He, however, has been the chief interested party as far as our testimony is concerned.) They receive once-a-year testimony on the state of the Soviet and Chinese economies in executive session, then ask us to sanitize for publication. The request is conveyed to OLC, who passes it on to DDI, in the person of [redacted] farms out the material to the appropriate DDI components for sanitization. In the case of the current material, DDI himself (Ed Proctor) personally cleared the material. It is the recollection of those I spoke with that Proctor's rationale regarding [redacted] testimony was that it "had all appeared in the press."

2. Other than the Joint Economic Committee annual go-round, the only incident anyone can recollect where declassification of executive session testimony was requested pertained to DCI Colby's testimony on Diego Garcia before the Senate Armed Services Committee.

3. One of my interlocutors, [redacted] stressed Jim Taylor's point that this is just a minuscule aspect of the declassification problem, of which FOIA is the largest fraction. He feels there must be an "institutional" approach to declassification, with a central office responsible for the whole gamut of release of information channels, and its personnel sensitized to the "issues"- [redacted]-rather than to mere procedural considerations like sources and methods. I feel that [redacted] point is correct and that we should not establish any special rules as far as the subject is concerned-- particularly as everyone is well sensitized to the problem now.



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